Agitation by Postal Employees

3036. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been agitation by over 30,000 class III and IV postal employees in the North Eastern States for the last 35 days as reported in the Statement dated 23.12.91;

(b) whether the postal department has incurred a loss of Rs. 175 crores due to the agitation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) About 7,000 Class III and Class IV postal employees in the North Eastern Region went on strike for 38 days from 15-11-1991 to 22-12-1991.

(b) and (c). The revenue loss due to this strike is estimated at approximately Rs. 145 lakhs, of which about 87.5 lakhs was on account of loss of sale of postage stamps, Rs. 41.6 lakhs due to loss of commission on IPOs/MOs and the balance on account of curtailment of other services.

(d) The demand of postal employees in the North Eastern region is that they may be paid Special Duty Allowance. It has not been possible to take a decision on this demand so far because the matter is subjudice as review applications are pending on this issue before the Principal Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal, Delhi.

Telephone and Posts Office Facilities in Gujarat

3037. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such villages in the Gujarat state without Telephone and Post Offices facilities;

(b) the number of villages which are *likely to be provided with Telephone and* Post Office facilities during 1992-93 district-wise; and

(c) the number of villages to which facilities of Post Offices and Telephone are likely to be provided during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) *As on 29.2.1992*:

Without Telephone Facility	*Without Post Offices*
15,292	10,808*

* but these villages are provided with postal facilities through the existing network of the State.

(b) and (c). The number of villages planned to be provided with telephone and post office facilities during 1992-93 as also in the remaining years of the Eighth Five Year Plan is being finalised.

Publication of Magazine "Bhagirath"

3038. SHRI SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the objective of publishing "Bhagi-

rath" Magazine;

(b) the number of copies published;

(c) the cadre-wise number of the employees engaged in the publication of this Magazine; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for improving the standard of its publication?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The objectives of Bhagirath Magazine are (i) to disseminate information in the filed of water resources development such as irrigation, flood control, drinking water, hydro-power, water management and (ii) to bring to the notice to the Members of Parliament, State Legislators and public in general, about the plans, achievements and on-going activities in the various fields of water resources development.

(b) Bhagirath Magazine is published quarterly in Hindi as well as in English. 2100 copies of Bhagirath (Hindi) were published in each quarter of 1991. 2300 copies of Bhagirath (English) were published in each of the first three quarters of the year and similar number of copies are under print for the 4th quarter.

(c) The sanctioned strength of staff exclusively for Bhagirath (Hindi) is 7, exclusively for Bhagirath (English) is 6 and common to both is 3 (detail enclosed).

(d) The standard of this Magazine is quite satisfactory. The magazine has been appreciated from time to time by subscribers, experts and Members of Parliament.

STATEMENT

Cadre-wise Number of Employees Engaged in the Publication of Bhagirath Magazine

S.No.	Name of the Post	No. of posts sanctioned			
		Total	English	Hindi	Common to both
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Editor	2	1	1*	—
2.	Assistant Editor	1	—	1*	—
3.	Assistant	1	1	—	—
4.	Hindi Translator Gr. I	1	—	1	—
5.	Professional Assistant	2	1	1	—
6.	L.D.C.	2	1	1	—
7.	Steno Grade 'D'	2	1	1	—
8.	Artist	1	—	—	1
9.	Packer	1	—	—	1
10.	Datry	1	—	—	1
11.	Peon	2	1	1	—
		16	6	7	3

*The post of Assistant Editor Bhagirath will stand abolished from the date of filling up of the post of Editor.